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VOICE: UKRAINIAN NAZI COLLABORATOR LIVES IN YONKERS
NEW YORK

A man who now lives in Yonkers collaborated with the Nazis during World War II but was given U.S. citizenship because of intervention by the Central Intelligence Agency, the Village Voice reported Tuesday.

The Voice said Mykola Lebed, now 75, led the security forces of a faction of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists that worked with the Nazis. The group committed atrocities against Jews, intellectuals, communists and other nationalist forces, according to documents cited by the Voice.

In addition, the weekly newspaper charged that Lebed had attended a Gestapo school in Poland. It quoted from an account by a fellow Ukrainian nationalist who attended the school and claimed to have seen Lebed help torture a Jewish man who was accused of raping a German woman.

There was no answer at Lebed's home on Tuesday. Lebed refused to be interviewed by the Voice, but in a brief encounter at his home he denied having headed the OUN-B security forces, and said he quit the Gestapo school after five weeks, the weekly newspaper said.

According to the Voice, Lebed was identified only as Subject D in a recent General Accounting Office study on cases in which U.S. intelligence organizations aided in the flight of Nazi collaborators to this country.

The report said the man was used as an American agent soon after the end of the war, and "because of fear for his personal safety and his familiarity with U.S. intelligence operations, the CIA brought him to the United States."

Lebed arrived in New York in 1949; when he filed for citizenship, "his identity and history were concealed from the Immigration and Naturalization Service," the Voice said.

Two years later, the INS opened an investigation into Lebed's status, but the CIA intervened to protect his citizenship under a provision that allows it to bring 100 people to the United States each year on national security grounds, regardless of their background, the Voice said.

Verne Jervis, a spokesman at INS headquarters in Washington, said the agency would have no comment on the report. Patti Volz, a CIA spokeswoman in Washington, said that she had not seen the report and that the agency had no immediate comment.

The Voice said the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, which works to deport war criminals, is examining the case.

Lebed is retired. Until recently, he was president of the Prolog Research and Publishing Association, which specializes in Ukrainian-language books and magazines. The Ukraine is now part of the Soviet Union.